

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SY-10 USSS-00 M-03 A-01

PER-05 NEA-10 SCA-01 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 118680

O 060305 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5741

UNCLAS MEXICO 3056

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER, MX

SUBJ: GUADALAJARA KIDNAP: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OCCURRING IN
GUADALAJARA

FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY, AS REPORTED BY MONTERREY CG EDWARD
P. DOBYNS, FROM THE SCENE, OF EVENTS AS THEY OCCURRED IN
GUADALAJARA THE NIGHT OF MAY 4.

1910 - ON ARRIVAL AT CG RESIDENCE PRIOR TO INTERNATIONAL GOOD
NEIGHBOR COUNCIL AWARDS DINNER, WE WERE TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE
LOCAL SECRET POLICE, SR. LOPEZ CASTRO, THAT THE CG' S CAR HAD
BEEN FOUND ABANDONED WITH THE KEYS IN IT IN FRONT OF THE CLUB
GUADALAJARA, CALLE COLOMOS. LOPEZ CASTRO SHOWED US LEONHARDY' S
CALLING CARD, WHICH WAS FOUND ON THE FRONT SEAT OF THE AUTO-
MOBILE.

2000 - SR. LOPEZ CASTRO RECEIVED A CALL AT THE RESIDENCE,
INFORMING HIM CG LEONHARDY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED AND THE ABDUCTORS'
WRITTEN DEMANDS HAD BEEN LEFT IN A MAILBOX. HE MADE AND RECEIVED
SEVERAL ADDITIONAL PHONE CALLS DURING WHICH HE VERIFIED THIS
INFORMATION.

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2010 - NOTIFIED EMBASSY (DIKEOS) THAT LEONHARDY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED AND THAT THE ABDUCTORS' WRITTEN DEMANDS HAD BEEN DEPOSITED IN A MAILBOX.

2045 - CONSUL ERNEST B. GUTIERREZ LEFT IN THE COMPANY OF VICE CONSUL RUSSEL L. KEETON WITH LOPEZ CASTRO, AT THE LATTER' S REQUEST, TO MAKE A FORMAL DENUNCIA AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS; TO INSPECT THE CG' S CAR, AFTER WHICH, ACCORDING TO LOPEZ CASTRO, THEY WOULD PROCEED TO OPEN THE MAILBOX CONTAINING THE MESSAGE FROM THE ABDUCTORS.

2140 - GUTIERREZ TELEPHONED TO REPORT THAT INSTEAD OF BEING TAKEN TO WITNESS THE OPENING OF THE MAILBOX THEY MUST AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE, " EXPECTED AT ANY MOMENT". GUTIERREZ SAID HE WOULD WAIT, BUT WOULD CALL THE GOVERNOR (JALISCO) IF THE POLICE DID NOT ACT MORE RAPIDLY. AFTER GUTIERREZ SIGNED THE DENUNCIA, A YOUNG MAN WHO SAID THAT HE HAD WITNESSED THE ABDUCTION CAME TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY STATEMENT. THE POLICE INSISTED THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS ALSO NECESSARY BEFORE PROCEEDING TO OPEN THE MAILBOX.

SUMMARY OF EYE- WITNESS STATEMENT: AT 6:00 P. M. MY FIANCEE ARRIVED IN FRONT OF THE CLUB GUADALAJARA WHERE I WAS WAITING AND WE WALKED ON COLOMOS STREET. ON ARRIVING AT THE CORNER OF MANAGUA STREET, I SAW A WHITE AUTOMOBILE BLOCK THE PATH OF A BLACK PLYMOUTH WITH A PLAQUE H CONSULAR, AND A FEW SECONDS LATER A YELLOW FORD AUTOMOBILE CLOSED IN FROM THE REAR, BLOCKING THE PLYMOUTH. TWO PERSONS EMERGED FROM EACH OF THESE TWO AUTOMOBILES AND IMMEDIATELY A HEARD A HIGH- CALIBRE GUN SHOT AND THREW MYSELF ON THE GROUND NEXT TO A PARKED CAR. IMMEDIATELY A SHOT OF A LIGHTER CALIBRE WEAPON WAS FIRED AND I HEARD A VOICE SAYING, " GET DOWN (BAJATE)". I HEARD A REPLY, " DON' T TAKE ME (NO ME LLEVEN)". THIS I HEARD PERFECTLY WELL SINCE I WAS ONLY 7 OR 8 METERS AWAY, AND ON HEARING IT I TURNED TO SEE THAT FROM THE BLACK CAR A MATURE PERSON OF NORTH AMERICAN TYPE EMERGED AND WAS TAKEN INTO THE YELLOW VEHICLE WHICH IMMEDIATELY TOOK OFF WITH THE WHITE CAR FOLLOWING.

2205 - INFORMED MRS. LEONHARDY, WHO WAS VISITING FRIENDS IN DENVER, OF HER HUSBAND' S ABDUCTION. SHE SAID SHE WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO RETURN TO GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATELY.

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2215 - GUTIERREZ CALLED FROM THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO REPORT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE GOVERNOR AT HIS HOME, THE LATTER STATING THAT THE DOCUMENTS CONTAINING THE DEMANDS OF THE ABDUCTORS HAD BEEN OPENED; THAT THE CHIEF OF POLICE WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS OFFICE; THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD SPOKEN TO THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (GOBERNACION) IN MEXICO CITY AND

RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO PROCEED WITH ALL POSSIBLE CAUTION AS LEONHARDY' S HEALTH AND WELFARE WERE PARAMOUNT TO THEM. HE DID NOT STATE WHAT DEMANDS WERE MADE.

2300 - REQUESTED PRESS GUIDANCE IN VIEW OF THE QUERIES WE HAD BEEN RECEIVING AND WHICH I ANTICIPATED WOULD INCREASE IN FREQUENCY. EMBASSY ADVISED ME TO (A) REFER ALL INQUIRIES ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ABDUCTORS TO THE GOVERNORS OFFICE OR THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN MEXICO CITY AND (B) TO REFER ALL QUERIES ABOUT U. S. REACTION TO WASHINGTON. YOU AGREED WITH ME THAT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COULD BE PROVIDED THE PRESS. I PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO THE DUTY OFFICER.

2340 - GUTIERREZ AND KEETON OBTAINED A PHOTOCOPY OF THE LETTER CONTAINING THE ABDUCTORS' DEMANDS AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE STATEMENT BY AN EYE- WITNESS TO THE ABDUCTION. DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING REPORTERS VISITED AND TELEPHONED THE RESIDENCE, REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT CONSUL GENERAL LEONHARDY. IN EACH INSTANCE THEY WERE REFERRED EITHER TO THE EMBASSY OR THE BPAO, EXCEPT THAT I DID PROVIDE THE REPORTERS SOME BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING THE CONSUL GENERAL AND HIS FAMILY .

MAY 5

0750 - GUTIERREZ CALLED THE GOVERNOR, WHO SAID HIS OFFICE HAD RECEIVED NO FURTHER NEWS FROM THE ABDUCTORS; THAT HE WOULD CALL THE RESIDENCE IMMEDIATELY IF HE RECEIVED ANY. HE AGAIN SAID THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES WOULD EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN OVER THE SAFETY OF CG LEONHARDY. DEAN

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